

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
an input section configured to receive color image signals;
5 a printing color designating section configured to designate printing colors of two colors;
a conversion section configured to receive the color image signals which are received from the input section and to convert the color image signals to two-
10 state signals in a dimension-dropped fashion; and
a color allocation section configured to allocate the printing colors of two colors which are designated by the printing color designating section to the converted two-state signals.
- 15 2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the conversion by the conversion section is a color conversion.
- 20 3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the allocation of the printing colors by the color allocation section is inking processing.
4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the color conversion is done under a look-up table system.
- 25 5. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising identification processing section configured to identify whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character is

represented or a picture is represented and to independently set parameters of the identification processing to the two-state signals.

5 6. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a filtering processing section configured to perform filtering processing on the converted two-state signals and to independently set parameters of the filtering processing to the converted two-state signals.

10 7. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an identification processing section configured to identify whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character signal is represented or a picture signal is
15 represented and to independently set parameters of the identification processing to the two-state signals and a filtering processing section configured to perform filtering processing on the converted two-state signals and independently set parameters of the filtering
20 processing to the two-state signals, wherein, when the two color designation is made with the same color on the printing color designating section, the filtering processing section has its parameters set to allow the converted two colors from the conversion section to be
25 printed as the same concentration reproduction.

 8. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a compression section

configured to independently perform compression
processing on the converted two-state signals from the
conversion section, a storage section configured to
store the compressed two-state signals from the
5 compression section, and a decoding section configured
to perform decoding processing on the compressed
two-state signals which are stored in the storage
section.

9. An image processing method comprising:
10 designating printing colors of two colors;
converting input color image signals to two-state
signals in a dimension-dropped fashion; and
allocating the designated printing colors of two
colors to the converted two-state signals.

15 10. An image processing method according to
claim 9, wherein the converting step is done by color
conversion processing.

11. An image processing method according to
claim 9, wherein the allocating is done by inking
20 processing.

12. An image processing method according to
claim 10, wherein the color converging processing is
done under a look-up-table system.

13. An image processing method according to
25 claim 9, further comprising identification processing
is done for identifying whether, with respect to the
converted two-state signals, a character signal is

represented or a picture signal is represented and parameters of the identification processing are independently set to the two-state signals.

14. An image processing method according to
5 claim 9, further comprising filtering processing is done on the converted two signals and parameters of the filtering processing are independently set to the two-state signals.

15. An image processing method according to
10 claim 9, further comprising identification processing operation is done for identifying whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character signal is represented or a picture signal is represented and parameters of the identification processing are
15 independently set to the two-state signals, and filtering processing is done on the converted two-state signals and parameters of the filtering processing are independently set to the two-state signals, wherein if the two color designation is done with the same color,
20 the parameters of the identification processing and parameters of the filtering processing are so set that the converted two-state signals can be printed in the same concentration reproduction.

16. An image processing method according to
25 claim 9, further comprising compression processing is done independently on the converted two-state signals, storing the compressed two-state signals, and decoding

processing is done on the stored compressed two-state signals.